

## World wetlands day 2009



We, the Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokushima branch organized a small meeting to report 'Ramsar COP10 in Korea 2008' to the public as WWD event on January 24.

Mr. Miyake (Head of Wild Bird Society of Japan Tokushima branch), Ms. Watadani, and Ms. Matsumura also from the society and Ms. Iguchi from 'The Tokushima Nature Observation Society' who participated in Ramsar COP10 made a speech in front of 23 people. Most of the participants at the meeting were from different environmental groups which were related to 'Yoshino river estuary' and 'Global Warming', etc.

### **Our Activity at COP10**

We had a booth to present 'Yoshino River Estuary' at COP10 exhibition floor.

Our aim was to introduce 'Yoshino River Estuary' to the people of the world at Ramsar COP10. This is not only an internationally important habitat for migratory



waterbirds but also has many characteristic features of its biodiversity, and faces many problems of 'unwise use' to the people in the world at Ramsar COP10. It has been listed for one of the most important wetlands of Japan which urgently need to be designated as a Ramsar site in order to preserve it for the future.

(Photo above: from left - Ms.Iguchi, Mr.Miyake, Ms.Watadani and Ms.Matsumura at World NGO conference)

Photo right: our 'Yoshino river estuary exhibition' at Ramsar COP10, I hope many people remember it!)

### **WWD meeting**

The meeting started with a welcoming speech from Mr. Miyake, the head of the Wild Bird Society of Japan Tokushima branch. We prepared handouts which included instructions of WWD to the people. The photographs and articles of Ramsar COP10 were displayed on the wall of the meeting room.



First of all, Ms. Matsumura talked about the overall schedule & contents at COP10. She encouraged many people's involvement to understand the importance of wetlands.

Also some information of 'World Wetland Network' was introduced to the people.

Secondly, Ms. Watadani explained about the world NGO conference in details with some photographs. We could understand her enthusiasm and support for the problems from NGOs in Korea, Bangladesh, Nepal, Africa, Latin America, Spain, etc which were presented at world NGO conference. She highlighted the important role of world NGOs for Ramsar COP10.

Thirdly, Ms. Iguchi told of her experiences and the many world NGO friends she had met in Korea humorously and her strong will of 'Yoshino river estuary as Ramsar site' at the COP10 exhibition. She showed some problems the Yoshino river estuary is facing, and key points to be designated for Ramsar site for its wise use. People should start to recognize Yoshino river estuary as an internationally important wetland it is and it need to be protected from 'Unwise use'.

And finally, Mr. Miyake told of his visit of Korean wetlands during the COP10. He showed us many beautiful pictures of the Upo wetland, Suncheon Bay and Junam Reservoir, and the birds he encountered were shown on the screen. People enjoyed all the beautiful photographs, talks and understood more about the Ramsar convention at (At WWD meeting by the Wild Bird Society of Japan Tokushima branch) the end of the meeting.

The local newspaper came to report on the meeting and it was in the local paper the next day with a small photo.

Unfortunately there were no people from Local governmental authorities, although we had invited them in advance. However it was a good day and we have to do the same thing repeatedly with more people from different fields, because 'wetland management works best when all stakeholders are involved'.

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